



ENABLE – Гражданское общество за устойчивый и энергоэффективный город

Newsletter No. 2

Study Tour to Lithuania



On 20-26 April 2025, ENABLE project partners participated in an educational trip to Lithuania, organised by the Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO e.V.) together with **Valius Serbenta**, an international expert on energy efficiency in buildings from Vilnius.

The purpose of the study tour was to get an in-depth insight into the mechanisms for energy efficient modernisation of multi-family apartment buildings (MFABs) at national and municipal levels.

The tour programme included both theoretical sessions and discussions on legal frameworks, as well as practical tours of modernised facilities. Particular attention was paid to issues of interaction with residents, transparency of processes and institutional solutions to scale up modernisation projects in cities.

Roadmaps and German Experience

On the first day, a seminar was held on the practical implementation of energy efficient modernisation measures in the MFABs. **Larissa Schreckenbach**, ENABLE Project Manager, began with a presentation on the objectives of the project and the importance of involving civil society organisations. Berlin opened the meeting with a presentation on the objectives of the project and the importance of involving civil society organisations. She emphasised that energy efficiency is not only a technical challenge, but also a tool for sustainable urban development. The ENABLE project is expected to give an impetus to the development of energy efficiency policies in buildings.

Margarita Kabakova, German Energy Agency (dena), gave a thematic presentation, describing a model of individual roadmaps for building modernisation. She spoke about approaches to housing typologies, data collection and visualisation, and digital tools used for project planning and monitoring. Participants from Astana, Kokshetau and Petropavlovsk presented their experiences and discussed how to transfer elements of German and Lithuanian practices to local conditions.





Visit to APVA and Vilnius renovation sites

On the second day, the delegation visited the Agency for Environmental Project Management (APVA), the key structure administering the national programme of housing modernisation. Representatives of the agency gave a detailed presentation on the step-by-step renovation procedure: from tenants' initiative and development of an investment plan to contracting and obtaining an energy efficiency certificate. After the visit to APVA, the participants travelled to residential areas of Vilnius, where they toured two projects: one fully modernised, the other under construction. Talking to residents, contractors and management companies gave a full picture of how renovation affects the quality of life and the perception of urban space.

Experience of the regions on the example of Svencionis

Next, the delegation visited Svencionis Municipality, where they met with Mayor **Rimantas Kliptsius**. The participants were presented with cases of renovation in small towns - Pabrada, Svencionelis and Svencionis. Despite their small populations, these towns showed a high level of project implementation, thanks to which the municipality strengthened the trust of citizens and increased the liquidity of residential property. A modernisation initiative always starts with a general meeting of residents. The municipality provides organizational support; the financing is provided by subsidies and bank participation. The minutes of the meeting are legally binding and serve as a basis for contracting. This approach has been recognised as one of the most valuable for adaptation in Kazakhstan.



Excursions with Mayor Rimantas Kliptsius to the towns of Svencionis Municipality

"Renovate the City" – an example to follow

After the regions, the delegation met with representatives of Vilnius municipality and the public company "Renovate the City" – the city modernisation operator, which implements the modernisation programme according to the "one-stop-shop" model. Deputy Director **Eugenia Avramenko** spoke in detail about how the company takes over the whole range of tasks: from communication with residents and development of the investment plan to tendering and quality control of works.

The model combines state support in the form of subsidies (up to 36%) and affordable bank loans for 20 years at 3% per annum. The system emphasises transparency, standardisation and quality of performance. The programme has already covered more than half of Vilnius' apartment buildings, and the plan is to modernise the entire housing stock built before 1993 by 2030.



Public policy and professional communities

On the last day of the study trip, a meeting was held at the Lithuanian Ministry of Environment to discuss the state's strategic priorities in housing policy. Long-term goals for the establishment of the Unified Data Bank on Buildings and the preparation of a strategy for modernisation of the housing stock until 2050 were presented. Representatives of the ministry answered numerous questions on co-operation with public utilities, plans to support vulnerable categories of population and reform of legislation. In the afternoon, a meeting was held with **Algis Čaplikas**, President of the Lithuanian Republican Chamber of Housing Services. They discussed the challenges faced by management companies in the course of energy modernisation of the residential housing stock. Mr. Čaplikas stressed the importance of forming a professional community in the field of management and maintenance of multi-apartment housing stock and a serial approach to the modernisation of entire neighbourhoods.



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Participants of the educational visit to the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania:

Aleksandras Dolgovas, Counsellor of the Housing Policy Group,
Laura Lukoseviciene, Head of the Housing Policy Group

Experiences that inspire

The study tour allowed the participants not only to see the results of large-scale and systematic work in Lithuania, but also to communicate with the people behind the success of the reforms. The special value of the trip lies in the combination of theoretical frameworks, practical tools and real modernisation objects. The Lithuanian experience showed how to build an effective system of housing renovation, which combines the interests of the state, business and citizens. And today, according to the participants of the tour, Kazakhstan faces the opportunity not only to be inspired by this experience, but also to adapt it to its own realities.



All the main news of the ENABLE project can be found on its website: <https://enablepro.kz/>.

You are also welcome to visit the project's Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/enable_project_kz/



Финансирование
Европейского Союза



ENABLE – Гражданское общество за устойчивый и энергоэффективный город

Main objective of the project

Strengthening the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to increase their participation in making decisions to support the development of sustainable housing, with a focus on energy efficiency of buildings.

Project Objectives

- Increase the knowledge of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).
- Increase the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to train and inform citizens to improve public awareness.
- Improve interaction between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and local authorities in the field of sustainable housing, in particular energy efficiency in buildings and energy efficient retrofitting of multi-family apartment buildings (MFABs).

Target groups

Civil society organisations (CSOs), residential property managers, cooperatives, homeowners (HOs) or property owners' associations (POAs), service providers, builders, architects, energy auditors, local and national authorities responsible for housing, modernisation of the housing stock and energy efficiency in buildings.

Project Implementation Period

15/01/2024 - 14/07/2027

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